

National Assembly

- The Estates-General had been called on December 4, 1789 to deal with France's financial crisis, but promptly fell to squabbling over its own structure.
- The members of Estates-General had been elected to present the estates of the realm: the 1st Estate (the clergy), the 2nd Estate (the nobility), and the 3rd Estate (which, in theory, represented all of the commoners and, in practice, represented the bourgeoisie (middle class)).
- The third Estate had been granted "double representation" –that is, twice as many delegates as each of the other estates- but at the opening session on May 5, 1789, they were informed that all voting would be "by power" not "by head", so their double representation was to be meaningless in terms of power.
 - They refused this and proceeded to meet separately. On June 13, this group began to call itself the National Assembly.
- The newly created assembly immediately attached itself onto the capitalists- the sources of the credit that needed to fund the national debt—and to the common people. They consolidated the public debt and declared all existing taxes to have been illegally imposed.
- Three days after splitting from the Estates-General, the delegates from the Third Estate (now the National Assembly) found themselves locked out of the usual meeting hall.
- In response, they broke into an indoor Tennis Court instead. There, all but one of the members took the **Tennis Court Oath**, which stated that the group would remain binding until a new national constitution was put in place.
- Upon hearing of the National Assembly's formation, King Louis XVI held a general gathering in which the government attempted to intimidate the 3rd Estate into submission. The King addressed all three estates, ordering them all to disperse.
 - The nobles and clergy obeyed, but the National Assembly remained seated in silence. The assembly had grown too strong, and the king was forced to recognize the group.
- Eventually many of the nobles and clergy joined the Assembly. By June 27, the royal party was forced to give in.
- Inspired by the National Assembly, commoners rioted in protest of rising prices, especially on grain.
- Fearing violence, the king ordered the French military to arrive in large numbers around Paris and Versailles
- June 23, the King approved a constitution granted of the royal favor, which declared the right of separate debate for the three orders, which constitutionally formed three chambers. This move failed; soon the remaining deputies of the nobles, who still stood with the King, joined the National Assembly.
- The Estates-General had ceased to exist, having become the National Assembly, later becoming the National Constituent Assembly.